

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 OMB-01 MC-02

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W

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R 221428Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4559

INFO SECDEF

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ET US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH FONMIN-MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: SECDEF 201457Z MAY 75

AMB MET WITH FONMIN KIFLE MAY 21 FOR DISCUSSION ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS.

1. KIFLE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM HIS EMBASSY ABOUT SAME MEETING REPORTED REFTEL. HE WANTED TO KNOW PRECISE AMOUNT OF, AND RATIONALE FOR, CANCELLATION COST OF FIRST VULCAN PURCHASE, WHICH HIS EMBASSY THOUGHT MIGHT BE AS MUCH AS \$1,000,000. I SAID I AND CHMAAG WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND LET HIS GOVERNMENT KNOW.

2. KIFLE PURSUED IN RATHER MILD FASHION THE OLD TOPIC OF "WHO STRUCK JOHN" IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS TALKS THERE-WHETHER A COMMITMENT HAD BEEN MADE THAT WE WOULD SUPPLY F-5A'S BY JUNE. I SAID IT WAS CLEAR TO ME THAT THERE WAS NO COMMITMENT OR PROMISE, BUT THAT WE ALL HAD GIVEN GOE REASON TO HOPE RPT HOPE THAT DELIVERY WOULD BE IN JUNE. I SAID THAT USG IS STILL WORKING TO SPEED UP DELIVERY OF F-5A AND F-5B, BUT THAT IN LIGHT OF PAST MISUNDERSTANDINGS I WOULD NOW NOT DARE TO USE THE WORD "HOPE" CONCERNING THESE
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EFFORTS.

3. KIFLE WAS SURPRISED AT MY REPORT THAT BGEN YOHANNES SEEMED TO THINK HE WAS NOT GOING TO WASHINGTON AS DEFATT AFTER ALL: KIFLE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER, AND WE BOTH AGREED THAT AN ATTACHE WOULD BE VERY USEFUL. KIFLE SAID THAT THERE WOULD VERY SOON BE AFREIGHT FORWARDER HIRED BY GOE, AND THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING THIS STEP RIGHT AWAY.

4. COMMENT: I WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT KIFLE HANDLED THE F-5A AVAILABILITY PROBLEM IN SUCH LOW KEY. HE DID NOT HINT AT DIRE MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON THE PART OF DIRG, AS HE HAS BEFORE, NOR DID HE HINT THAT THE GOE MIGHT TURN ELSEWHERE FOR ARMS SUPPLY. HUMMEL

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